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March 6

TRIVIA CHALLENGE: Who has two places on the NSA Fort Meade campus named after her or him?

TRIVIA ANSWER: Actually, it is both a her and a him --- Elizebeth and William Friedman. The building originally known as Operations 1 is named after them, and so is the auditorium in that building.

The auditorium was named in 1976 for William alone. In 1999, the DIRNSA decided that it should be named for both Friedmans. Given that Elizebeth had never worked directly for NSA or its predecessors, her government service as a cryptologist had been an important contribution to our country's security. In addition, many of the original concepts on government cryptology had been developed by the Friedmans as a team.

The name change occurred in October 1999, during that year's Symposium on Cryptologic History. This was done to take advantage of the attendance at the symposium of Dr. Abraham Sinkov, the last of William Friedman's first hires as government cryptanalyst. It was feared that this might be the last time Dr. Sinkov would visit NSA, a fear that sadly turned out to be correct; he passed away the following year.

Almost from the time of the dedication of the auditorium in 1976 there had been some sentiment that William Friedman deserved a more substantial memorial. In 2003, the Operations 1 Building was dedicated to the memory of both Friedmans. Their son John attended the ceremony and shared some of his memories of growing up with two dedicated cryptologists.

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Contemplating a bust of William Friedman at the 1976 auditorium dedication: Frank Rowlett, Elizebeth Friedman, Solomon Kullback, Abraham Sinkov

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